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At the Anniversary Meeting held on the 27th May, 1839, the President presented the gold medals, awarded respectively to Dr. RÜPPELL, of Frankfort, and Mr. THOMAS SIMPSON, of the Hudson's Bay Company, in the following words:—

“ Chevalier BUNSEN,—It is peculiarly gratifying to me that, as President of the Royal Geographical Society, it has fallen to my lot to place a gold medal, the gift of our most gracious Sovereign, and awarded by the Council of this Society to my much valued friend Dr. Edward Rüppell, of Frankfort, in the hands of another highly valued friend, the Chevalier Bunsen, for the purpose of its being transmitted to its deserving owner. This medal is awarded to Dr. Rüppell in testimony of the high sense which the Council feel of the services rendered by him for the advancement of Physical Geography: and though Dr. Rüppell, together with his habits of minute accuracy, his innate love of truth, and the truly philanthropic spirit which he carried with him to Arabia Petreæa, and to the burning sands of Abyssinia, and Kordofan; although Dr. Rüppell, besides his assiduity and exactness in using his mathematical instruments for astronomically fixing the sites of every important place he visited, was also a distinguished and indefatigable naturalist, we love to regard him chiefly as a geographer; and as such to proclaim, as we do, our high sense of his merits as a large benefactor to the science we profess to cultivate. Dr. Rüppell made three journeys into Africa: his first was of short duration, for he soon left Egypt to return to Europe, where alone he could hope to attain sufficient proficiency as a practical astronomer, to travel with advantage through unknown regions. He placed himself under the tuition of the lamented Baron von Zach; he returned to Egypt, and visited Arabia, the gulf of 'Akabah (which he was the first to explore geographically), Abyssinia, and Kordofan. All the produce of his travels in the department of zoology, which absorbed a large half of the pecuniary means at his disposal, Dr. Rüppell nobly and generously made over on his return home to his native city. The same has been the result, and the same the sacrifice, of his second journey into the same countries: and the city of Frankfort is mainly indebted to the disinterested conduct of one of the most illustrious of her citizens, for the high rank she holds, even in Germany, in the possession of a splendid museum of natural history, and a learned director at the head of it. The most valuable portion of Dr. Rüppell's geographical discoveries and *data* are to be found in the pages of his own luminous and learned narratives (the latter part of which is now in the course of publication), or in those of the *Correspondance Astronomique*, edited at Genoa by his friend, Baron von Zach; and they will long continue to be the chief guides of those who may undertake hereafter to follow Dr. Rüppell's steps in the honourable route which he has laid open.

“ Chevalier Bunsen,—The Royal Geographical Society of London are highly gratified with the opportunity thus afforded them of presenting, through the channel of one, to whom all branches of literature are so highly indebted, the royal medal, awarded by the Council to Dr. Rüppell, your distinguished countryman.”

To which Mr. Bunsen replied:—

“Sir,—In receiving the medal your Society has awarded to Doctor Eduard Rüppell, I beg to express the thanks of that learned countryman of mine, to whom I shall be happy to forward this honourable token of your high esteem. In expressing these thanks, and at the same time the warm interest I personally take in the distinctions decreed by you to my countryman, I know I speak, also, the feeling of the illustrious city to which he and his collections belong, and those of our common country, Germany, which is proud of the successful efforts of one of her most meritorious sons, and will equally be so of the honour England has at this moment bestowed upon him, through this Society. And, indeed, this encouraging proof your interest and of your admiration is well adapted to recall to the mind recollections of a particularly pleasing nature to both countries. For when I look back to the distinguished travellers and discoverers whom my native country has produced in this and in the last century, I see before me an imposing series of illustrious names, connected with this country by the ties of hospitality and friendship, and powerfully assisted in their noble endeavours by the generous zeal of your learned and patriotic societies. Allow me only to mention Forster, the natural philosopher and distinguished writer, who accompanied Captain Cook on his great voyage of discovery: and of later times, Hornemann and Burckhardt, who received in this country the means of executing their bold plans, to penetrate into unknown parts of Arabia and of Africa. It has not been forgotten, Sir, in my country, and will never be forgotten, that England followed with anxious interest the course of those intrepid travellers, and that it mourned over the cruel fate that put an end to their enterprize, as if they had been her own native children. Let me only add, that he, who, for his admirable simplicity and the clearness of his observations, may be called the modern Herodotus, and who, with Pococke, Alexander von Humboldt, and a few others, ranks among the most accomplished travellers of all ages—that Niebuhr, the elder, I say, found among the English in India and in this country, the most effectual assistance, and the most encouraging interest, as he himself has recorded, and as his great son has so thankfully acknowledged in the biography of his father.

“As to your Society, Sir, in particular, it has by its very statutes acknowledged, and by its actions invariably sanctioned, the great and elevating truth, that science and virtue have their home and their sanctuary in every country, where these pillars of humanity are duly appreciated. I name both together, because they ought to be inseparable, and I am particularly happy to find that, in this very instance, you have equally honoured both: for as you yourself have so feelingly remarked in your discourse, the distinction awarded to Dr. Rüppell has been equally given to the intellectual merit and efforts of the traveller, and to the noble disinterestedness and the generous patriotism of the good citizen, who, after having sacrificed his fortune for the advantage of science, offered the gift of his rich and valuable collections to his native town. It is unnecessary to enlarge further on this subject; but it will be gratifying to you to know, that the generosity of Dr. Rüppell has not been bestowed upon a barren ground. That city, which may well be held up

as a model for other rich and commercial towns, on account of the noble institutions she has raised for science and literature,—mostly monuments of the patriotism of her children,—is uniting those collections in a magnificent museum, worthy of its contents, of its founders, and of the free town that produced Goethe.

“As to myself, I can only say in answer to the extremely partial mention you have made of my name, that, deeply feeling how little I have done to merit such partiality, I trust I shall never be found deficient in gratitude for the kindness which has inspired it.”

The President then addressing the Deputy Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, said:—

“Mr. HARRISON,—In the absence of Mr. Thomas Simpson, to whom the Council of the Royal Geographical Society of London have awarded their medal in testimony of the deep gratification which they feel in the success which has attended the enterprise and exertions of Mr. Simpson on the north coast of North America, and in the absence of Mr. Pelly, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, I am happy that you have been selected by that gentleman to accept the friendly office of receiving this medal in the name of Mr. Simpson. The services which Mr. Simpson, and his friend and senior officer, Mr. Dease, have rendered to Geography, in advancing, almost to its completion, the solution of the great problem of the configuration of the northern line of the North American continent, are, in the opinion of the Council of this Society, eminently meritorious; and Mr. Simpson and Mr. Dease, whatever may be the result of their further labours, have already earned for themselves a high place amongst those who have added to the fame and glory of British enterprise. In the summer of 1837, Messrs. Dease and Simpson, under directions from the Hudson's Bay Company, starting from the Great Slave Lake, followed the steps of Franklin as far as the point called Franklin's Farthest, whence they traced the remainder of the coast to the westward to Point Barrow; by which they completed our knowledge of this coast the whole way west of the Coppermine River, as far as Behring's Straits. During the following summer, the same adventurous officers, encouraged by the generous spirit of their employers in their attempts to brave the obstacles which a hard and rugged nature was interposing in the way of our knowledge of that part of the American continent, and anxious that this palm of victory should also, with so many others, encircle the brow of Britannia, again started from their winter quarters, as early as the season would permit, and, descending the Coppermine River, they again followed Sir John Franklin's route to Cape Turnagain—his eastern extreme—in longitude 109° nearly; from which point Mr. Simpson proceeded to the eastward about ninety miles. From the spot he had then attained, and which has since received the appropriate name of “Simpson's Farthest,” he could descry a further line of coast about thirty miles in extent; and he had the gratification of thence discovering a fine open sea to the north and east: his supply of provisions here obliged him to retrace his steps. The result of these two expeditions is, that the northern

shores of America,—all the acquisition of British hardihood, perseverance, and judgment,—can now be accurately laid down on our maps, from Behring's Straits to the 106th degree of longitude, forming a continuous line of coast of upwards of sixty degrees ; and a fair prospect is opened, that another season may go far to complete our knowledge of the whole.

“ Sir,—I beg to place this medal in your hands, to be given to Mr. Simpson by Mr. Pelly, the Governor of your prosperous and high-spirited association ; and I beg that Mr. Simpson may be assured that this Society warmly participate in the honourable reward which Messrs. Dease and Simpson may expect in the gratitude of their country, and that we shall be happy to give them a welcome reception within these walls on their return to England.”

To which the Deputy Governor replied :—

“ Sir,—Highly gratifying as it must be to me personally, to receive, on the part of Mr. Simpson, this mark of the approbation of the Royal Geographical Society of London, I cannot but regret that, owing to an unavoidable engagement, Mr. Pelly, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, is prevented from being present ; as I am sure he would have been peculiarly gratified, on this occasion, having taken so large a share, in conjunction with Mr. George Simpson, in planning the operations and directing the arrangements that have led to this successful result on the arctic shores of America. Mr. P. W. Dease and Mr. Thomas Simpson, the two officers of the Hudson's Bay Company who have been employed on this expedition, were selected by the Governor and Committee, as combining the vigour, zeal, and ardour of youth with the experience, judgment, and discretion of riper years, and the result has justified the choice. The time of conferring on these gentlemen the distinction of a Royal Premium seems particularly happy, as it is at a moment when the parties themselves might apprehend, from not having done all they hoped to do last summer, that their work would be considered incomplete. But the award of this evening will prove to them that the medals of this Society are bestowed not only for works already performed, but as an encouragement for future exertion in the cause of discovery. It is a great satisfaction that the Hudson's Bay Company, as a commercial Company, have been able to extend their discoveries not only *within*, but *beyond* Her Majesty's dominions ; and that you, Sir, on the part of the Geographical Society, should have expressed your approbation that they have not limited or restricted their endeavours, in time or expense, whenever they could aid the great cause of the advancement of geographical science and discovery.”
